वस्तुओं को अतिरिक्त आवंटन करने हेतु ऐसा कोई अनुरोध प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) और (घ) सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकारों के संयुक्त दायित्व के अधीन क्रियान्वित की जा रही है। तथापि, केन्द्रीय सरकार का दायित्व "बल्क" में खाद्यान्नों की वसूली करना और राज्यों को उपलब्ध कराना है। लेकिन राज्य के अन्दर वितरण का दायित्व राज्य सरकार का है। राज्य सरकार को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की वस्तुओं का मासिक कोटा नियमित रूप से आवंटित किया जा रहा है और यदि कोई विशेष आवश्यकता हो तो उसे इसमें से पूरा किया जा सकता है।

**FCI's Purchase Organisation for Rice at Tadepalligudem in Andhra Pradesh**

1274. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India has a big purchase organisation for rice at Tadepalligudem in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the quantum of rice purchased at Tadepalligudem by FCI in 1996-97;

(c) whether the same brisk purchase of rice will be done in 1997-98; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The FCI is operating 17 rice (levy) purchase centres and 27 paddy purchase centres in the West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh with Headquarters at Tadepalligudem.

(b) A quantity of 6.6 lakh tonnes of rice was procured in FCI district of Tadepalligudem during 1996-97 Kharif Marketing Season.

(c) and (d) It is pre-mature to indicate the likely procurement of rice in Kharif Marketing Season 1997-98 which will commence from 1st October, 1997.

**Two Kilograms of Foodgrains per month under TPDS for the Labourers**

1275. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) while introducing TPDS whether Government feels that two kilograms of foodgrains per month is sufficient for labourer to allow him to have sufficient calorie intake;

(b) if not, whether Government will agree to supply foodgrains in excess of two kilograms per month through TPDS;

(c) whether Government have studied the number of families below poverty level at the marco-level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Under the TPDS, 10 kg. of foodgrains per family per month are issued at specially subsidised prices to the families Below Poverty Line (BPL). Besides it, foodgrains @ 1 kg. per manday at specially subsidised prices will be provided under EAS/JRY schemes to the poor people offering themselves for work under these schemes. Thus the poor families can get 10 kg. of foodgrains p.m. under the normal eligibility as BPL families and an additional 8 to 16 kg. p.m. under EAS/JRY schemes at specially subsidised prices. However, the Public Distribution System is not a substitute for the open market but only a supplement to it.

(b) It is possible to increase the scale of 10 kg. per family per month provided a consensus emerges to exclude the APL families from PDS in the matter of foodgrains.

(c) and (d) Government of India have adopted the estimates of population

below poverty line arrived at by the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of 'EXPERT GROUP' on "Estimation & Proportion and Number of Poor" constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of late Prof. Lakdawala. As per the Expert Group methodology, the number and percentage of Below Poverty Line population works out to 32.03 crores and 35.57 per cent respectively as against 14.98 crores and 16.82% worked out as per the earlier official methodology.

**Distribution of Ration under New PDS**

1276. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether distribution of ration under new PDS scheme for the persons living below the poverty line has been implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the States where it has yet to start;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that the per unit wheat and rice to the present card holders has been reduced in Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons for the reduction of ration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The New PDS Scheme, *viz*, the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) envisaging, provision of ten kg. of foodgrains per family per month to population below poverty line at specially subsidised prices has been implemented in all States and UTs except Punjab, Delhi, Goa and Lakshadweep.

(c) Government of Punjab, Delhi, Goa and UT of Lakshadweep are making necessary preparations including identification of families below poverty line and issue of special cards to them for implementing the Targeted PDS.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Based on the average annual lifting of last 10 years the allocation of Delhi has been reduced from 65000 MT to 40400 MT in case of wheat and from 20000 MT to 12890 MT in case of rice w.e.f. June, 1997. Government of NCT of Delhi have reported that they have reduced the entitlement from 20 kg. to 5 kg. of wheat per adult per month and 5 kg. to 2 kg. of rice per adult per month, while in case of jhuggi ration cards (JRCs) the entitlement of card holders is 10 kg. of wheat and 2 kg. of rice per adult per month.

**Wheat Imported from Argentina found to be of Inferior Quality**

1277. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wheat imported by the FCI from Argentina has been found to be of inferior quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the value of wheat involved; and

(c) the action taken by Government in terms of the contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Wheat imported from Argentina conforms to be quality parameters under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the phytosanitary norms and is fit for human consumption. However, in one of the Argentinian wheat consignments valued at